

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV:MLEVITSKY:REH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 099847

LONDON FOR MARSHAL SHULMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SHEVCHENKO CASE

REF: STATE 040108

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING
APRIL 17:

2. "Q. I HAVE NOT ACTUALLY SEEN IT, BUT I WAS TOLD JUST
BEFORE I CAME IN HERE THAT A MAJOR NEWS MAGAZINE HAS AN
ARTICLE OUT IN ITS CURRENT ISSUE APPEARING TODAY WHICH
SAYS THAT MR. SHEVCHENKO HAS BEEN TALKING TO A UNITED
STATES INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND OTHER US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
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FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AND, ALSO, THAT HE IS ASKING
DOLLARS 100,000.00 TO TELL HIS STORY TO US OFFICIALS. COULD
YOU GIVE US ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

3. "A. IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF
THIS KIND.

4. "Q. TOM, YOU SAID LAST WEEK, I THINK, THAT AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT KNEW, THIS MAN WAS NOT ANY KIND OF INTELLIGENCE AGENT. IF THE REPORT IN TIME IS CORRECT, THEN IT SUGGESTS THAT AGENCIES OF THE US GOVERNMENT WERE MAINTAINING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE. IS THAT CORRECT?

5. "A. I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT MR. SHEVCHENKO HAD BEEN DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO CARRY ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

6. "Q. WILL YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION NOW? WAS HE?

7. "A. GETTING BACK TO MY SAME OLD ANSWER, IT'S OUR POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF THIS KIND. I AM NOT AT ALL HOPEFUL THAT I COULD GET AN ANSWER, SO I DON'T THINK THAT I CAN TAKE THAT QUESTION.

8. "Q. WELL, HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN THE SOVIET UNION COMES IN AND DECLARES A PROTEST THAT YOU HAVE BEEN COMMITTING A PROVOCATION WITH ONE OF ITS DIPLOMATS" WILL YOU TELL THEM IT'S JUST NOT TRUE? OR THAT YOU DON'T COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF THAT KIND?

9. "A. AS I SAID WHEN I WAS ASKED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN A PROTEST, WE DO NOT CHARACTERIZE OUR DIS-

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CUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON THIS MATTER AS RISING TO THE LEVEL OF A PROTEST ON THEIR PART.

10. "Q. YOU DENIED LAST WEEK, THOUGH -- IF I RECALL CORRECTLY -- THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY TAMPERING WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL. I DON'T RECALL YOUR EXACT WORDS, BUT --

11. "A. I SAID THAT HE WAS NOT BEING HELD HERE UNDER DURESS OR AGAINST HIS WILL. I DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FRAMEUP SINCE HE IS NOT CHARGED WITH ANYTHING IN THIS COUNTRY.

12. "Q. BUT THERE IS GOSSIP. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE ALLEGATION?

13. "A. NOT REALLY, NO. I GUESS IT DID ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE WAS BEING HELD HERE UNDER DURESS -- WHICH HE IS NOT. HE IS FREE TO REMAIN HERE, TO GO HOME OR TO GO TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY." CHRISTOPHER

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